

KECSAC DIRECTOR NAMED PERSON OF THE YEAR

RICHMOND, Ky.—The Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KECSAC) is pleased to announce that director Dr. Ronnie Nolan was selected as the 2013 “Person of the Year” by The International Association of Truancy and Dropout Prevention (IATDP).

The International Association for Truancy and Dropout Prevention is an association of educators, government officials and stakeholders whose history of truancy and dropout prevention efforts date back to 1911. IATDP's mission is to create a partnership, which facilitates the dissemination of information, emerging practices and research designed to support learning and increase high school graduation rates. This award recognizes persons in the field of truancy and dropout prevention and related work who have significantly contributed to the field through their work, education, or service.

Melissa Rogers, principal at The Academy, a Department of Juvenile Justice day treatment program in the Franklin County School District, nominated Dr. Nolan and noted, along with the selection committee, “Ronnie has developed a program that has received national attention as a model of how to ensure state agency children receive quality educational services.” Rogers further noted, “under the direction of Ronnie Nolan, KECSAC has become a model...for the state of Kentucky’s Department of Education on how to bring general alternative school programs into compliance in many areas including curriculum alignment, career and college readiness, and treatment directed at our at risk youth.”

An ardent supporter of children at-risk, Nolan said, “Credit for this award doesn’t lie with me alone. It is the hard work and dedication of our teachers, administrators and staff, the support of local school district superintendents, and the collaboration with state partners that makes our unique model for state agency children truly successful.”

“At KECSAC, we believe in the value of each and every child and we know that together we can help them achieve at their highest potential,” Nolan continued. “Every child deserves the opportunity to make their dreams a reality and with a quality education we know they will have the tools they need to become contributing, purpose-driven citizens of our Commonwealth and our world.”

Acknowledgement for this award is also credited to KECSAC’s partners, the Kentucky Departments of Education, Juvenile Justice, Community Based Services and Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, Eastern Kentucky University, as well as local education agencies across Kentucky and our legislative leaders who are committed to serving children in the care of the Commonwealth.

KECSAC and its partners work to provide an equitable, quality education to children who are in the care or custody of the Commonwealth. The statewide collaborative also provides a comprehensive professional development program for educators working with students who are at-risk while also monitoring the educational programs to ensure they are implementing the Kentucky standards of education. KECSAC programs are located in 53 school districts in Kentucky, collaborating with 93 programs serving nearly 13,000 children annually.

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